

# TO PROTECT AND SERVE

*Our monthly recognition for the best of the best*



## *Police Officer of the Month*

### **IVAN PENA**

Officer Pena is being honored for continually doing more than is asked of him.

Last year he was instrumental in establishing a rapport with the Spanish community. During a series of robberies, he translated information from residents and quickly passed it on to officers who captured some of the criminals.

Also, during a period of "civil unrest" between the black and Hispanic community in the Smithfield area, he became involved by personally visiting with the Hispanic community, listening to their needs and concerns and rebuilding the trust between the Hispanics, the police and the black community.

As a result of his visit, a Sheriff's walk was conducted and a meeting at the Zone 3 substation organized, which he attended to assist those unable to express their concerns in English. A 28-page "help" brochure was created in English with the assistance of Officer T.L. Jackson and Ms. Rodriguez, and the Spanish version was translated by Pena.

Also a member of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Honor Guard for more than nine years, he has participated in more than 150 funerals and 200 ceremonies and parades. The Guard competed last year in the 3rd annual Honor Guard competition in Washington DC, placing second out of 18 teams.

His hard work and dedication truly makes him deserving of today's recognition. Congratulations on being selected Police Officer of the Month.

## *Corrections Officer of the Month*

### **TRACY LARSON** (Photo not available)

A 13-year JSO veteran, Officer Larson is currently assigned to the Department of Corrections Consolidated Transportation Unit. She is often given special assignments because she is energetic, trustworthy and has a proven record of readily accepting and completing assignments without delay. During the Super Bowl she worked expanded transportation shifts to provide remote prisoner transportation. When volunteers were needed for recruiting posters, she was there.

A few months ago, while exiting I-95 at University Blvd., Larson was flagged down by a motorist who was blocking traffic in a disabled vehicle. Rather than ignore the situation, she pulled over and assisted the motorist by manually pushing his vehicle out of harm's way and into a parking lot, then taking him to a nearby convenience store so he could purchase fuel.

Remembering that every contact between a member of the community and any member of the Sheriff's Office is where community opinion is formed, Larson's actions are an excellent example of the Core Value: Community Focused. For this effort and the countless others that she has made, Officer Larson deserves recognition as Corrections Officer of the Month.

## *JSO assumes law enforcement duties in Baldwin*

Effective Sunday, March 12, at 6:00 pm, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office assumed law enforcement duties for the Town of Baldwin, on the western border of Duval County. JSO's Patrol and Enforcement Zone 5 will be extended to include the one-square-mile town, with a population of about 1,600 individuals.

"The most important thing I can say about this addition to our jurisdiction is that the residents and business owners in the Town of Baldwin can depend on the men and women of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to deliver to them the same high quality services and commitment we provide to the citizens of Jacksonville," said Sheriff John Rutherford.

Residents are all being notified, by mail and phone, about the importance of calling 911 with emergency needs, and 630-0500 (a free call) with any other police matters. Several JSO officers currently reside in the Baldwin area of Duval County, ensuring for the residents the added benefit of off-duty response and service which currently exists throughout Jacksonville.

Planning is currently underway for Sheriff Rutherford to host a Town Hall meeting in Baldwin in coming weeks, to introduce the command staff of the Zone and answer any questions of the residents. Rutherford is also looking forward to extending to the residents of the area the opportunity to become involved with JSO in its many community policing activities, such as the Sheriff's Advisory Council (ShAdCo) monthly meetings, Citizen's Police Academy, Watch programs and other initiatives.



## *Reserve Officer of the Month*

### **GARY STANLEY**

Officer Gary Stanley, who joined the Reserves almost 15 years ago, is being recognized for his continuous outstanding services. After serving in the JSO Aviation unit for more than seven years, he now works scheduled events at the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum and all Jaguars football games at Alltel Stadium.

Whatever his assignment, his supervisors always receive positive feedback from the public, because he always conducts himself professionally. He can be counted on to sign up or accept call out assignments for emergencies and special assignments.

Married and the father of a little 2-year old girl, Stanley has worked fulltime as a salesman for Acura Automotive for more than 10 years. Congratulations on being named Reserve Officer of the Month.



## *Corrections Supervisor of the Month*

### **MICHAEL SHANNON**

Sgt. Shannon, a 17-year JSO veteran, is recognized for his tireless effort during the recent PTDF organizational re-structure, for supervising a floor with more than 380 pretrial felons and for his recent community service. When the re-structure took place in April, he took care of the numerous changes to roll calls and daily worksheets used on the watches for assignments.

Shannon's other assignment on the 5th floor requires attention to details. On numerous occasions, he and his squad have received tips of gang-related activities. By investigating

and identifying leaders of such activity, he can place those inmates in confinement and prevent disruption on the floor.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Shannon (on his own time) joined members of his church who went to Gulfport, Miss., and assisted in clearing debris, cutting fallen trees and repairing roofs.

It is an honor to recognize Sgt. Shannon as the Corrections Supervisor of the Month.



## *Civilian Employee of the Month*

### **SYLVIA WILSON**

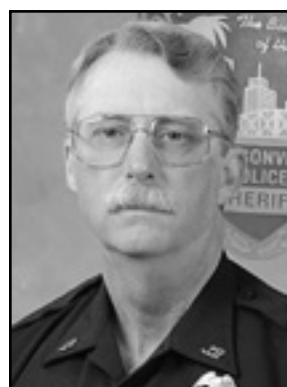
Mrs. Wilson has been a JSO crossing guard at the intersection of Hyde Grove and Lane Avenue since 1992. A very professional and caring individual, she always goes beyond the call of duty. According to her daughter, for the last six years Mrs. Wilson has spent \$400 or more on school supplies, delivering them to the school when she knew there were needs the budget would not cover. These items include paper, pencils, glue, glue sticks, notebooks, composition books, crayons, folders, rulers, erasers, markers and hand soap.

Mrs. Wilson has shown other acts of kindness by purchasing winter coats for some of the kids who didn't have one and giving away her own gloves because a child's hands were cold. On several occasions she has given away her own personal umbrella. She cares about her children - not only their safety but also their well-being.

She helps her fellow co-workers, as well, by giving them a ride when inclement weather occurs, or if they need help for other personal issues. She is always on time to her post and stays until the last child is safely across her intersection. She observes safety issues and reports her observations to us as needed, and if she sees conflicts among the students, she immediately reports them.

When school began this year, Mrs. Wilson was off from work and out of town due to a family death. She still made sure supplies would be purchased and delivered before school started. Without her generosity, some of our students would begin school without basic supplies. Among the community members and business partners who support the Hyde Grove Elementary school, Mrs. Wilson and her husband are an intricate part of the school's success.

JSO is honored to recognize Mrs. Wilson as Civilian Employee of the Month.



## *Police Supervisor of the Month*

### **SGT. RAY NICKS**

Sgt. Nicks, a 28-year JSO veteran, is supervisor of the Patrol / DUI unit. During the Labor Day holiday period, he coordinated the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Florida Department of Transportation's "You Drink, You Drive, You Lose" campaign. This required coordination of the traffic units for Zones 1, 2, and 3, and supervision of approximately 35 officers.

The DUI checkpoint and saturation patrol resulted in: • 31 DUI Arrests • 483 Traffic Citations • 2 other misdemeanor arrests • 4 felony arrests • 35 grams of marijuana seized • 1 firearm

seized. In addition to supervising the DUI squad, Nicks implemented a DUI prevention program for 600 Navy personnel in this area.

For his dedication and commitment to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the community, Sgt. Nicks deserves being honored as Supervisor of the Month.

Information on this page prepared and submitted by Melissa D. Wilder, Meritorious Awards Coordinator, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office